

Description

Telecommunications terminal

CLAIM FOR PRIORITY

5 This application claims priority to International Application No. PCT/DE00/01546 which was published in the German Language on March 8, 2001.

TECHNICAL FIELD OF INVENTION

10 The invention relates to a telecommunications terminal in accordance with the precharacterizing clause of claim 1. having a memory device for storing user specific data.

15 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

For modern telecommunications terminals (which are also to be understood below as meaning or terminal configurations which include supplementary components), various options are known for inputting and storing 20 user-specific data and also for transmitting such data to another subscriber.

These include, by way of example, telephone answering machines, separate or else integrated into a 25 conventional landline telephone, which have been known for a long time and in which user-specific information

is stored in a semiconductor memory or on tape by means of voice input and is transmitted to the calling subscriber in the event of a call not being taken.

- 5 ~~In a certain sense, the~~ The call number memories in modern landline telephones or mobile telephones (also referred to here as a "telephone book") can also be regarded as memories for user-specific data which are supplied by means of an input from the user and can be
- 10 accessed by suitable selection means in order to either ~~to~~ output a stored call number on a display unit or to set up a connection to this call number directly (or both).

- 15 ~~In a certain sense, a~~ A configuration in accordance with the precharacterizing clause of claim 1 is also produced by the internal storage means device, provided to implement the SMS (Short Message Service) or e-mail in mobile telephones, for buffer-storing a short
- 20 message and for sending it to a desired recipient after input has ended.

Although a multiplicity of different storage options for user-specific data are ~~thus~~ known for modern telecommunications terminals, and in this context it is also known practice to supply such data directly from the respective memory device to a transmission device

for transmission to another subscriber, certain instances of application involve ~~thoroughly~~ complex and also, in terms of reliability and data transmission and the security of the transmitted data against 5 unauthorized access, unsatisfactory actions.

Thus, in recent years, it has become commonplace to be able to handle a multiplicity of diverse services ~~for~~.
For example, to handle the delivery of certain goods, 10 booking a flight, booking a trip or else a financial transaction - via a telecommunications network, with the orderer or purchaser merely giving the number and the validity period of a credit card or customer card or the like to the vendor or supplier by telephone. For 15 this purpose, before the telephone call, or even during it, ~~he~~ the user needs to get out the appropriate card or to retrieve the data possibly from an organizer or a database in which he has stored them temporarily, so that he can then inform the subscriber on the other 20 terminal of them by speaking. ~~Particularly in environments subject to a lot of noise~~ In loud situations, this type of communication is anything but reliable, which means that misunderstandings with severe consequences may arise. Furthermore, in many 25 instances of application in which the communication is not completely screened from third parties, it is entirely possible for the relevant string of digits to

be overheard when submitted audibly and for the credit card number thus to fall into the wrong hands.

Finally, this way of handling credit or customer card numbers is associated with a degree of "fiddling", which is extremely disagreeable to the user, and in some situations - for example during a car journey - it is not possible at all in practice.

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In one embodiment of the invention, there is a The invention is therefore based on the object of specifying an improved telecommunications terminal of the generic type which allows easier ordering of goods or services via a telecommunications network.

~~This object is achieved by a telecommunications terminal having the features of claim 1.~~

20 The invention embraces the fundamental concept of providing In one aspect of the invention, the telecommunications terminal is provided with means for storing a device to store at least one string of digits and for transmitting to transmit it while a connection exists in response to the activation of suitable actuation means by the user. In contrast to a telephone answering machine, for example, what is

~~important in this case is that~~, for an incoming call, the memory device is not connected as the other caller instead of the actual terminal, but rather that switching it on during a normal terminal connection is 5 controlled by the user.

~~The invention also embraces the concept of allocating~~
In another aspect of the invention, the memory device, and optionally also the transmission device, has an 10 authentication means for protecting device to protect the sensitive user-specific data (specifically the credit-card or customer-card or account number or the like) against unauthorized access to the memory or to the transmission device.

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In one preferred embodiment, the input device comprises digit keys, expediently the digit keypad on a telephone or on a supplementary module for a telephone.

20 As In an alternative to this embodiment, the user-specific data may also be input using the telecommunications terminal's microphone and also a voice memory or voice processing device connected downstream of said microphone.

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In ~~both cases~~ either case, implementing the data input requires no change to the familiar user interface on

the terminal, and in the case of input using the digit keys also requires only slight hardware additions inside the equipment. By contrast, voice input naturally requires a higher level of hardware 5 complexity, particularly as compared with a simple landline telephone, but an added-feature mobile telephone already has the fundamental hardware prerequisites for this.

10 In another preferred embodiment, for which the prerequisites are ~~likewise best~~ preferred in a mobile telephone, the input is implemented within the context of special menu guidance. This can be done using a special "Payment Info" (or the like) menu item or 15 section which enables access to the memory device for the credit card number or the like after the predetermined authentication data have been input.

Examples of authentication data which can be used are 20 ~~in a selection which is known per se a~~ password, a short combination of digits (PIN = Personal ~~Identieation~~ Identification Number) or else biometric data, such as a fingerprint or a voice sample, or data stored in a universal Smartcard. According to the 25 chosen method of authentication, the authentication ~~means have~~ device has suitable input, comparison and storage ~~means~~.

Certainly the easiest thing to implement in a telecommunications terminal is the Generally speaking it is easy to implement input, storage and evaluation 5 of a PIN in a telecommunications terminal. What is somewhat more complex and cannot be implemented readily in simple landline terminals which do not have a keypad which can be switched at least to alphanumeric mode is authentication using a password, and authentication 10 using biometric data is probably more likely to be regarded as a future solution on account of the relatively high level of hardware and software complexity. Besides this, the latter solution is known to have the drawback that the access authorization is 15 linked absolutely to the presence of the biometric features and therefore cannot be transferred.

The card information retrieved from the memory device can be transmitted in various ways, which each have 20 certain advantages in a particular context. On account of the simplicity and usability for the landline network as well, the dual tone multiple frequency (DTMF) method should certainly be mentioned first in this context, said the method having been proven for 25 comparable applications - for example communicating with telephone computers at banks or the like - for years. Transmission using a preconfigured fax or e-mail

program is also possible and can naturally be implemented most easily in a terminal already provided with a fax mode.

5 In line with the mobile radio standards, transmission as "Unstructured Supplementary Service Data" (USSD) or as "Short Message" or, in future, GPRS is also suitable, in particular. Thus, in line with the GSM standard common today, it is possible to send and
10 receive short text messages using the SMS or, in future, e-mail in parallel with a voice connection. The data sent in this way can even be encrypted using the "SIM Application Tool Kit" in order - in addition to the encryption methods in mobile radio technology,
15 which are in high regard anyway - to provide additional security on the transmission path. Naturally, appropriate reception-end decryption is then required.

Finally, voice transmission is possible and, on account
20 of the hardware prerequisites, can also be implemented with relatively little complexity especially by landline telephones having an integrated telephone answering machine or by mobile telephones having a voice memory. It ~~would~~ is also be conceivable to
25 convert the numbers which are input into spoken text using a simple voice synthesizer.

Particularly for a mobile radio terminal, but maybe also for added-feature landline terminals (for example a combi fax machine), it is advantageous to preconfigure a number of transmission options for the 5 stored card or account data in order to be able to meet any different requirements of the suppliers in terms of the data transmission. In the case of a mobile radio terminal or a modern added-feature telephone, the relevant selection will again be able to be made most 10 appropriately within the context of menu control.

The In one embodiment, the memory device for the user-specific data is preferably in the form of a multi-area random access memory so that - in line with the 15 requirements of modern business transactions - a plurality of credit card, customer card or account numbers can be stored in retrievable form. The actuation device is then naturally needs to be in the form of a selection device. This selection device can 20 also - in the case of a mobile telephone at any rate - be implemented most conveniently using menu guidance. ~~Of great relevance for the future is~~ In one preferred embodiment ~~in which the, there is a~~ telecommunications terminal has means for transmitting a device to, 25 transmit the user-specific data to the requester via an IP network, in particular the Internet - for example a preinstalled Internet browser.

The application options for the invention can be significantly extended in an embodiment in which the input device and/or the memory device and, in particular, both devices are held in a supplementary 5 module having a separate housing for connection to an already existing mobile telephone or other telecommunications terminal. This is because this allows already existing equipment having an interface with data capability to be retrofitted. Such a 10 supplementary module can naturally also perform further convenience functions extending the performance range of the existing terminal, and may also be used as a supplementary unit for other technical equipment. Specifically in this case, it also appears expedient to 15 provide authentication means for evaluating biometric data or to fit a SmartCard reader.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The invention described Advantages and expediency in 20 the invention can otherwise be found in the subclaims and also in the description below of preferred exemplary embodiments with reference to the figures, in which:

25 Figure 1 shows a basic illustration ~~to explain of~~ a first embodiment in the form of a function block diagram, and.

Figure 2 shows ~~a basic illustration to explain~~ a second embodiment in the form of a function block diagram.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Figure 1 shows a mobile radio terminal configuration 100 comprising a mobile telephone 101 and a supplementary unit 103. The mobile telephone 101 and the supplementary unit 103 are connected to one another 10 by means of an infrared transmission link 105 comprising a first interface 105A belonging to the mobile telephone 101 and a second interface 105B belonging to the supplementary unit 103.

15 In terms of hardware, the design of the mobile telephone 101 is known per se. This design comprises an input keypad 107, an LCD display unit 109, a microphone 111 and also an earphone 113 as customary input and output means. The input keypad 107 and the LCD display 20 unit 109 are connected to a baseband processing stage 119 via a controller 115, and the microphone 111 and the earphone 113 are connected to the baseband processing stage 119 via an AF stage 117. The input of the baseband processing stage is connected to a 25 reception part 121, and the output of ~~said~~ the baseband processing stage is connected to a transmission part

123, both of these parts being connected to an antenna 127 of the mobile telephone 101 via a diplexer 125.

The supplementary unit 103 has a separate, alphanumeric 5 keypad 129 and a large-area alphanumeric display unit 131. The supplementary unit 103 also has a card reading and evaluation unit 133 for a SmartCard 134, the card reading and evaluation unit 133 having an associated authentication memory unit 135. An enabling switching 10 stage 137, controlled by ~~means of~~ the card reading and evaluation unit 123, is connected between the output of the keypad 129 and the input of a card number memory unit 139. The output of the latter is connected to the input of the second infrared interface 105B via an 15 encryption stage 141. In addition, the supplementary unit 103 also has the normal elements for microprocessor control, i.e. a processor/controller, a main memory and a program memory, which interact with the input keypad 129 and the display unit 131 in a 20 manner known per se - this microprocessor control is not shown, however, in the interests of improved clarity.

With the mobile radio terminal configuration shown in 25 this case, the supplementary unit 103 allows the use of comprehensive value added services which can be used with the mobile telephone 101 alone, not at all or only

with very complex inputs. Within the context of implementing the invention, the relevant issue here is to implement the ordering of goods and services and payment for them via the mobile radio network. The user

5 authenticates himself by inserting his Smartcard 134 into the card reading and evaluation unit 133, in which the data stored on the Smartcard 134 are evaluated in a manner which is known per se. If the result of authentication is positive, the enabling switching

10 stage 137 is used to enable memory contents in the card number memory unit 139 to be input and changed or retrieved using the input keypad 129 and the display unit 131. The memory unit 139 can be used for non-volatile storage of, in each case, an association code

15 or identification code and a string of digits comprising a credit or customer card number and a validity period or an account number in table form in a plurality of memory areas 139i.

20 If the mobile telephone 101 has been used to set up a connection to a supplier of goods or services and the delivery of certain goods or of certain services has been agreed, the menu guidance provided by ~~means of~~ the controller 115 in the mobile telephone 101 is used to

25 choose a menu item, using said the mobile telephone's input keypad 107, which activates the infrared transmission link 105 to the supplementary unit 103 for

the purpose of transmitting to transmit the number and the validity period of a particular credit card from the card number memory unit 139, via the encryption stage 141 and the interfaces 105B, 105A, to the 5 controller 115 in the mobile telephone 101 and sends the data from said mobile telephone to a terminal associated with the supplier.

According to the actual form of function division 10 between mobile telephone 101 and supplementary unit 103, the relevant commands can be input either using the input keypad 107 on the mobile telephone or using the keypad 129 on the supplementary unit. In either case, the data are provided in suitably encrypted form 15 directly from the memory unit 139 and are encrypted in suitable fashion, which means that it is not necessary to search for the data on the card (or in a notebook or database or the like) and to speak or use another form of on-the-spot input. This means that there is also no 20 longer any risk of unauthorized third parties being able to pick up the card data during this input process, and provision of the required data for the other party to the transaction becomes much more convenient for the user.

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Figure 2 shows a second embodiment in the form of a mobile telephone 200 drawn schematically as a function

block diagram. This mobile telephone 200 also has a basic design which is known per se. This design comprises, in particular, a microphone 201, an earphone 203, an LCD display unit 205 and an input keypad 207 as 5 input and output element, of which the microphone 201 and the earphone 203 are connected to an AF stage 209, and the display unit 205 and the input keypad 207 are connected to a controller 211. Both the AF stage 209 and the controller 211 are connected to a baseband 10 processing stage 213 whose input is connected to an RF reception part 215 and whose output is connected to a transmission part 217, said the parts in turn being connected to an antenna 221 via a diplexer 219. To this extent, the design also corresponds to that of the 15 mobile telephone 101 shown in Figure 1.

In this case, the microphone 201 is also connected via an enabling switching stage 223 to the input of a voice memory unit 225 whose output is in turn connected to 20 the AF stage 209. Both the enabling switching stage 223 and the voice memory unit 225 are also connected to the output of the controller 211 via control signal inputs.

The scenario, already mentioned above, of transmitting 25 a credit-card or account number or the like to a supplier of goods or services during an existing mobile radio connection is in this case produced as follows:

first, the microphone 201 and the enabling switching stage 223, switched to enable by ~~means of~~ the controller 211, are used to store a string of digits comprising a card number and a validity period in the 5 voice memory stage 225. After actuation of a softkey on the input keypad 207, this string of digits is output to the AF stage 209 from the voice memory 225 under the control of the controller 211. After appropriate processing in the baseband processing stage 213 and the 10 transmission stage 217, it is transmitted to the terminal associated with the supplier of goods or services. On this case, authentication takes place by virtue of an additional PIN or a password being input using the input keypad 207. The voice memory stage 225 15 used can be a voice memory unit already provided per se in mobile telephones today; ~~alternatively~~. Alternatively, an additional unit can be provided specifically for storing the card information as voice information.

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The implementation of the invention is not limited to the examples described above, but rather is also possible in a multiplicity of modifications lying within the scope of action of a person skilled in the 25 art. It is thus also possible in the case of a landline telephone, in particular, and in this case too the components provided for inputting, storing and

transmitting the card data may be provided either in a telephone - equipped with appropriate added features - itself or in a supplementary unit connected thereto. If a voice input unit is provided (as in the case of the 5 embodiment in Figure 2), this can also be connected to a downstream voice/text conversion unit and to ~~means~~ ~~for transmitting a device to transmit~~ the data which have been input in the form of voice information in text format.

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Instead of an infrared link between the actual terminal and a supplementary unit, a line-conducted connection or else, in future, a special radio connection (Bluetooth) may also be provided.